

# Status of the claims

Claim 1 (previously amended). An audio playback/recording apparatus comprising:  
 an audio input processing section, which receives analog audio data, and converts  
 5 said analog audio data to digital audio data;  
 a playback/recording processing section having a compression section which  
 compresses said digital audio data and stores into a RAM said compressed digital audio  
 data and attribution data indicating a type of a compression of said compressed digital  
 audio data, and having an expansion section which decompresses compressed digital  
 10 audio data stored in said RAM based on the attribution data;  
 an audio output processing section, which receives decompressed digital audio  
 data, converts said decompressed digital audio data to analog audio data, and outputs said  
 analog audio data to an output apparatus;  
 an external recording circuit section, which records compressed digital audio data  
 15 into an external recording medium, and reads out compressed digital audio data from said  
 external recording medium, and stores said readout data into said RAM.

Claim 2 (previously amended). An audio playback/recording apparatus according to  
 claim 1, further comprising a general-purpose interface circuit section, which transfers  
 20 digital audio data and attribution data to an external apparatus from said external  
 recording medium, and which receives digital audio data from said external apparatus  
 and transfers digital audio data and attribution data to said external recording medium.

Claim 3 (original). An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 1, further  
 25 comprising a protection processing section for performing protection processing of said  
 digital audio data.

Claim 4 (previously amended). An audio playback/recording apparatus according to  
 claim 3, wherein said protection processing section comprises:

- 30 a) an encryption section which encrypts said digital audio data,
- b) a decryption section which decrypts encrypted digital audio data,

- c) an authorization data generation section, which generates authorization data sent to said external apparatus, and
- d) an authorization data verification section, which verifies authorization data sent from said external apparatus.

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Claim 5 (previously amended). An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said protection processing section comprises:

- a) an encryption section which encrypts digital audio data,
- b) a decryption section which decrypts encrypted digital audio data,
- 10 c) an authorization data writing section which writes authorization data into digital audio data transferred to said external apparatus, and
- d) an authorization data extraction section which extracts authorization data from digital audio data received from said external apparatus.

- 15 Claim 6 (original). An audio playback/recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said authorization data writing section writes said authorization data within a header information section of said digital audio data.